THE MARYLAND WING
FIREWORKS SAFETY BULLETIN

JULY 2026



HAPPY 250TH BIRTHDAY, AMERICA



GREETINGS. Please take a few minutes to review the information in this safety bulletin. Every season has its own hazards and America's birthday, as pleasant as it can be, is no exception. In fact I would encourage you to use this publication as one of your risk management tools. Keep yourself, your family, and Civil Air Patrol safe during this holiday period.



Thank you to 2d Lt Rebeca Davidek who wrote this article for us.

Fireworks have been a tradition the 4th of July festivities since the very first organized celebration of American independence on July 4, 1777. The tradition began when Founding Father John Adams envisioned "illuminations" across the continent to celebrate the nation's birth. In 1870, the 4th of July was declared a holiday by Congress.

Every year on this day, millions of people will take part in celebrations, attending large public displays, as well celebrating by purchasing their own mix of fireworks to mark their observance of the holiday. Unfortunately, each year thousands of people, more often young children and teens, are injured while using fireworks.



The National Safety Council strongly advises sticking to public displays. These displays are grand and complex, creating a mesmerizing presentation of shapes and colors. But what we don't see behind the production is the also complex and carefully orchestrated safety provisions in place should something go awry. These safety measures are carefully planned to manage risks related to fire, crowd safety, weather, explosive materials, and emergency response while allowing large celebrations to occur safely.

For fireworks injuries, prompt first aid is crucial. Rinse minor burns in cool water for 10-15 minutes and then bandage. Severe wounds need immediate medical attention.

PERSONAL SAFETY PLANNING

If you are inclined to use legal fireworks at home, consider adopting some of the safety provisions used by professionals:

1. Establish a large safety perimeter, creating sufficient distances between the fireworks and people in the area.

2. Choose a location away from buildings, vehicles, dry vegetation, and any personal items that may be damaged.



3. Store fireworks in secured, weather-protected areas until use Inspect your fireworks before use.

4. Read and adhere to the directions and warnings on the packages.

5. Monitor the weather, especially wind speed and direction in case the sparks become airborne; in the event of high winds, consider delaying or canceling plans for lighted fireworks.

6. Have a fire extinguisher and/or water hose or bucket on site.

7. Know what to do in the event there is a mishap with fireworks; have an emergency plan for fires and injuries.

8. Consider using safer alternatives, such as glow sticks, confetti, poppers, or colored streamers in lieu of sparklers.

Enjoy a safe, fun, and memorable Fourth of July!